

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently amended)** A combination electronic communication and medical diagnostic apparatus, comprising:
 [[a]] a first component for transmitting or receiving a remote electronic communication signal; and
 [[b]] a second component for generating vibration to be used in a medical diagnosis;
 wherein the second component generates vibration independently from the electronic communication signal received or transmitted by the first component.
2. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, where a) the electronic communication signal comprises a wireless signal.
3. **(Currently amended)** The apparatus of claim 2, wherein: a) the apparatus functions as a pager, beeper, or cellular phone.
4. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 3, wherein: a) the apparatus functions as a probe for detecting neuropathy in a subject.
5. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein: a) said second component generates vibration of a fixed magnitude.
6. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein: a) said second component generates a plurality of sets of vibration each of a fixed magnitude.
7. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein: a) said second component generates vibration of a variable magnitude.
8. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 7, wherein: a) the magnitude is variable in a linear, curvilinear, or step-like manner.
9. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein: a) said second component generates vibration at a fixed frequency.
10. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein: a) said second component generates a plurality of sets of vibration each at a fixed frequency.
11. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 1, wherein: a) said second component generates vibration at a variable frequency.

12. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 4, wherein: a) the probe can be used to determine a vibration perception threshold, a vibration disappearance threshold, or a vibration threshold, in a subject to detect neuropathy.

13. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising: a) audio or visual display to indicate one or more of vibration perception threshold, vibration disappearance threshold, and vibration threshold.

14. **(Original)** A combination electronic communication and medical diagnostic apparatus, comprising:

a) a device for generating vibration in first and second modes;

b) one of said first and second modes for utilizing in an electronic communication and the other of said first and second modes for utilizing in a medical diagnosis.

15. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 14, wherein: a) the apparatus in said one of said first and second modes operates as a pager, beeper, or cellular phone.

16. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 14, wherein: a) the apparatus in said other of said first and second modes operates as a probe for detecting neuropathy in a subject.

17. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 16, wherein: a) said device in said other of said first and second modes generates vibration of a fixed magnitude.

18. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 17, wherein: a) said device in said other of said first and second modes generates a plurality of sets of vibrations each of a fixed magnitude.

19. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 16, wherein: a) said device in said other of said first and second modes generates vibration of a variable magnitude.

20. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 19, wherein: a) the magnitude varies in a linear, curvilinear, or step-like. manner.

21. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 16, wherein: a) said device in said other of said first and second modes generates vibration at a fixed frequency.

22. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 16, wherein: a) said device in said other of said first and second modes generates a plurality of sets of vibration each at a fixed frequency.

23. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 16, wherein: a) said device in said other of said first and second modes generates vibration at a variable frequency.

24. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 16, wherein: a) the probe can be used to determine a vibration perception threshold, a vibration disappearance threshold, or a vibration threshold, in a subject to detect neuropathy.

25. **(Original)** The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising: a) audio or visual display to indicate one or more of vibration perception threshold, vibration disappearance threshold, and vibration threshold.

26. **(Currently amended)** An electronic communication apparatus for detecting neuropathy in a subject, comprising:

[[a]] a component for generating vibration of a fixed or variable magnitude;

[[b]] wherein when the apparatus is applied to a subject, threshold for the perception or disappearance of vibration can be determined as a measure of nerve function to detect neuropathy;

and wherein the apparatus further functions as a pager, beeper, or cellular phone.

27. **(Canceled).**

28. **(Currently amended)** A medical diagnosis method, comprising ~~the~~ steps of:

a) providing a combination electronic communication and medical diagnostic apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

i) a first component for transmitting or receiving a remote electronic communication signal; and

ii) a second component for generating vibration to be used in a medical diagnosis, wherein the second component generates vibration independently from the electronic communication signal received or transmitted by the first component;

b) generating vibration and applying the apparatus to a subject; and

c) diagnosing a medical condition based on detection or non-detection of vibration by the subject.

29. **(Original)** The method of claim 28, wherein: the apparatus functions as a wireless communication device.

30. **(Original)** The method of claim 28, further comprising: determining a threshold for the subject's ability to detect vibration by generating a predetermined magnitude or frequency.

31. **(Original)** The method of claim 30, wherein: the threshold is graded low if the subject detects vibration, and high if the subject cannot detect vibration.

32. **(Original)** The method of claim 28, further comprising: determining a vibration perception threshold for the subject's ability to detect vibration by increasing the magnitude or frequency of vibration.

33. **(Original)** The method of claim 32, wherein: the vibration perception threshold is graded low, medium, or high when compared to a preset standard thereby indicating the severity of the medical condition.

34. **(Original)** The method of claim 28, further comprising: determining a vibration disappearance threshold for the subject's ability to no longer detect vibration by decreasing the magnitude or frequency of vibration.

35. **(Original)** The method of claim 34, wherein: the vibration disappearance threshold is graded low, medium, or high when compared to a preset standard thereby indicating the severity of the medical condition.

36. **(Original)** The method of claim 28, wherein: the medical condition comprises neuropathy.

37. **(Original)** The method of claim 36, wherein: the step b) comprises generating vibration of a predetermined magnitude or frequency equal to about 95th-97th percentiles in a normal population.

38. **(Original)** The method of claim 37, wherein: detection of vibration by the subject indicates an absence of neuropathy, and non-detection indicates a presence of neuropathy.

39. **(Original)** The method of claim 30, wherein: the magnitude or frequency is fixed.

40. **(Original)** The method of claim 30, wherein: the magnitude or frequency is variable in a linear, curvilinear, or step-like manner.

41. **(Original)** The method of claim 36, wherein: the apparatus is applied to an extremity of the subject.

42. **(Currently amended)** A method of detecting neuropathy in a subject, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) providing a combination electronic communication and medical diagnostic apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

i) a first component for transmitting or receiving a remote electronic communication signal; and

ii) a second component for generating vibration to be used in detecting neuropathy, wherein the second component generates vibration independently from the electronic communication signal received or transmitted by the first component;

b) generating vibration of a predetermined magnitude or frequency as a threshold stimulus and applying the apparatus to a subject; and

c) allowing the subject to indicate whether or not vibration can be detected;

d) wherein the absence or presence of neuropathy is indicated by the subject's ability to detect or not detect the vibration.

43. **(Original)** The method of claim 42, wherein: the apparatus functions as a wireless communication device.

44. **(Original)** The method of claim 42, wherein: the threshold stimulus is equal to about 95th -97th percentiles in a normal population.

45. **(Original)** The method of claim 42, wherein: the step b) comprises generating vibration of a fixed magnitude or frequency.

46. **(Original)** The method of claim 42, wherein: the step b) comprises generating vibration of a variable magnitude or frequency.

47. **(Original)** The method of claim 46, further comprising: determining a vibration perception threshold for the subject's ability to detect vibration by increasing the magnitude or frequency of vibration.

48. **(Original)** The method of claim 47, wherein: the vibration perception threshold is graded low, medium, or high when compared to a preset standard thereby indicating the severity of neuropathy.

49. **(Original)** The method of claim 46, further comprising: determining a vibration disappearance threshold for the subject's ability to no longer detect vibration by decreasing the magnitude or frequency of vibration.

50. **(Original)** The method of claim 49, wherein: the vibration disappearance threshold is graded low, medium, or high when compared to a preset standard thereby indicating the severity of neuropathy.

51. **(Currently amended)** A medical diagnosis method, comprising ~~the~~ steps of:

a) providing a combination electronic communication and medical diagnostic apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

i) a first component for transmitting or receiving a remote electronic communication signal; and

ii) a second component for generating vibration to be used in a medical diagnosis, wherein the second component generates vibration independently from the electronic communication signal received or transmitted by the first component;

b) applying the apparatus to a subject and generating vibration; and

c) diagnosing a medical condition based on detection or non-detection of vibration by the subject.

52. **(Original)** The method of claim 51, wherein: the apparatus functions as a wireless communication device.

53. **(Currently amended)** A method of detecting neuropathy in a subject, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a combination electronic communication and medical diagnostic apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

i) a first component for transmitting or receiving a remote electronic communication signal; and

ii) a second component for generating vibration to be used in detecting neuropathy, wherein the second component generates vibration independently from the electronic communication signal received or transmitted by the first component;

b) applying the apparatus to a subject and generating vibration of a predetermined magnitude or frequency as a threshold stimulus; and

c) allowing the subject to indicate whether or not vibration can be detected;

d) wherein the absence or presence of neuropathy is indicated by the subject's ability to detect or not detect the vibration.

54. **(Original)** The method of claim 53, wherein: the apparatus functions as a wireless communication device.